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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04,
DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, SAH 03, SAL 01, AID 30, NSAE 00, RSR 01, /139 W

R 010450Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7944
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4404
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2650
AMCONSUL DANANG 1041

DEPARTMENT OF STATE /GDS/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Lyons DATE 12/23/81
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7297

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: KIEN GIANG PROVINCE

REF: SAIGON 6733

1. FIVE OF 25 CANDIDATES FOR KIEN GIANG'S THREE VIETNAMESE SEATS HAVE WITHDRAWN. THEY ARE MA SANH LONG, TRUONG HON RUU, TRAN VAN RUNH, DO THANH PHONG, AND DANG THI NHAN, TWO MILITARY CANDIDATES, ARVN LT TRUONG TRONG AND SGT DANG VAN MANH, HAVE NOT YET BEEN GRANTED MILITARY LEAVE. THEY ARE

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TO BE SUPPORTED BY BUDDHISTS OF AN QUANG PAGODA, SAIGON.
DECI JON TO KEEP THEM ON LIST HAS REACHED ONLY AFTER THREE
VOTES BY LOCAL ELECTION COUNCIL. -PROVINCIAL JUDGE, WHO CHAIRS

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ELECTION COUNCIL, IS BELIEVED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO AN QUANG BUDDHISTS. ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES FOLLOWS.

2. LEADING CANDIDATES:

A. BUI NHUT NGHIA - BORN IN KIEN AN DISTRICT, FAMILY IN RACH GIA FOR OVER 100 YEARS RECENTLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF RACH GIA VILLAGE PEOPLES'S COUNCIL, OWNS PRINTING SHOP IN RACH GIA, COMPLETED FRSOCH HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. BELIEVED TO HAVE GOOD CHANCE BECAUSE MANY RELATIVES IN PROVINCE.

B. DANG VAN PHUONG - BUDDHIST NORTHERN REFUGEE IN KIEN GIANG FOR 12 YEARS AS PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL, BELIEVED TO HAVE GOOD CHANCE BECAUSE HE HAS ORGANIZED TRAINING FOR ALL NEWLY-ELECTED VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS. HE MAY BE COOPERATING WITH NGHIA. LITTLE FORMAL EDUCATION BUT HAS STUDIED AT HOME.

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C. MAJOR NGUYEN QUANG QUE - CONFUSIANIST, 1959-1963 KIEN GIAN DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR SECURITY, THEN PROVINCE CHIEF. HE IS SUPPORTED BY A MR. PHAM VAN MINH, FORMERLY KIEN GIAN CORRUPTING SCANDAL LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HAVE ESPECIALLY GOOD REPUTATION AS PROVINCE CHIEF HE HAS MANY CONTACTS IN PROVINCE AND IS RUMORED TO BE SPENDING MUCH MONEY. CANDIDATE DOAN VAN PHUONG CLAIMS THAT QUIE HAS TOLD PEOPLE HE IS THE GVN CANDIDATE. HE IS ON LEAVE FROM THE POLITICAL WARFARE DIRECTORATE IN SAIGON.

3. CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE:

A. LY THANH LE - BUDDHIST, ALTHOUGH HE HAS ANGERED SOME FOR NOT KEEPING UP CONTACTS WITHIN THE PROVINCE DURING HIS TERM IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, HE STILL HAS SOME CHANCE. IT IS RUMORED HE MAY WITHDRAW BECAUSE OF POOR SHOWING FOR TRAN VAN HUONG WHOM HE REPRESENTED IN KIEN GIANG.

B. DO THUC DIEU - SOUTHERN CATHOLIC, BELIEVED TO BE RUNNING

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ON REPUTATION OF HIS FATHER WHO WAS FORMERLY DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION IN KIEN GIAN.

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C. NGUYEM VAN KHOA - BUDDHIST CANDIDATE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR WHO HAS MANY BUSINESS CONTACTS IN KIEN GIAN, HAS BEEN MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR PAST THREE YEARS, HAS A PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION AND IS A FORMER DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF.

D. NGUYEM TRANH PHUONG - CAO DAI, RAISED IN KEIN BINH DISTRICT WHERE HE STILL HAS MANY RELATIVES. LIMITED EDUCATION, SUPPORTED BY TAY NINH CAO DAI.

E. KHUU VAN PHU - PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER WHO MAY CHALLENGE CANDIDATE LY THANH LY (SEE BELOW) FOR TEACHER AND STUDENT SUPPORT.

4. OTHER CANDIDATES: TA NGOC MAI AND NUGYEN BACH VAN - CANDIDATES ARE NORTHERN CATHOLIC REFUGEES BELIEVED TO HAVE SUPPORT OF SIZEABLE NORTHERN CATHOLIC SETTLEMENT IN KIEN TAN DISTRICT. PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN THINKS NUGYEN VAN BAH HAS VIET CONG CONNECTIONS. THAI VAN SOME IS CVT UNION CANDIDATE BELIEVED TO BE STRONGLY ANTI-GVN. NGUYEN NAM THANH IS NAVY CAPTAIN BELIEVED TO BE BANKING ON SUPPORT FROM NAVY UNITS PATROLLING KIEN GIAN COAST. CAO THIEN DU ONLY HOIM HAD CANDIDATE REMAINING AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OTHERS. HE IS RELATED TO CAO THI NGUYET, THIRD WIFE OF HOA HAO.

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GENERAL BA CUT. NUGYEN CONG KHANH IS THE FORMER DISTRICT CH IOCE PHU QUOC AND IS RUMMORED TO BE CLOSELY RELATED TO NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF GENERAL LOAN.

5. ONE OF THE THREE CANDIDATES FOR KIEN GIANG'S ONE CAMBODIAN SEAT HAS WITHDRAWN. DANH THU IS PRESENTLY THE CAMBODIAN ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FROM KIEN GIAN AND IS BELIEVED TO STILL

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HAVE SUPPORT OF THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY ALTHOUGH PEOPLE ARE SAID TO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE DID NOT DO ANYTHING CONCRETE FOR THEM WHILE REPRESENTING THEM IN THE ASSEMBLY. DANH CUONG, OTHER CAMBODIAN CANDIDATE IN THE RACE, HAS MORE MONEY AND SPEAKS BETTER VIENTMAESE. BOTH ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE EQUAL CHANCE AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH CUONG IS SLIGHTLY FAVORED.

6. MOST CANDIDATES SAY THAT THEY WILL HAVE PROGRAM OF SOCIAL REFORM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DOAN VAN PHUONG WANTS FURTHER REFORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO GIVE MORE POWER AND MONEY TO VILLAGE GOVERNMENTS. NUGYEN VAN KHOA FAVORS

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DEVELOPMENT OF MORE CANALS IN RACH GIA. ALL CANDIDATES QUESTIONED OBJECTED STRONGLY TO TRUONG DINH DZU S PEACE PLATFORM AND TERM HIM A LIAR SUPPORTED BY COMMUNISTS. HOWEVER, BUI NHUT NGHIA FEARS THAT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES MAH FOLLOW DZU'S EXAMPLE WHILE CAMPAIGNING. MANY CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN QUIETLY CAMPAINGING FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS.
BUNKER

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